

phrase is the theme which ran through all the scientific literature of Rachel Carson and her great legacy to her readers.

Brief Bibliography

Paul Brooks, *The House of Life; Rachel Carson at Work* (1972) is an excellent literary biography with selections from Miss Carson's writings; it utilizes both her personal and professional correspondence; Frank Graham, Jr., *Since Silent Spring* (1970); the Maryland Historical Society has extensive clippings covering the career of Miss Carson. See also, article in the (Baltimore) *News American*, August 19, 1973 and *World Who's Who in Science* (1968).

DR. B. OLIVE COLE, 1883-1971 **Pioneer Pharmacist and Lawyer**

JEANNE HACKLEY STEVENSON

Bessie Olive Cole was born on November 14, 1883 in Mount Carmel, Baltimore County, Maryland, the daughter of Jordan B. Cole and his wife, Nancy Ellen (Wheeler) Cole. When she graduated from Franklin High School in Reisterstown, Maryland in 1902, the class historian observed prophetically that "Miss Bessie Olive Cole was destined to become a second Susan B. Anthony."

After her graduation from high school, Olive Cole became a stenographer and a quotation clerk for Sharpe and Dohme, manufacturing pharmacists in Baltimore. While working there, she attended the Baltimore Business College, graduating from that school in 1903. Perhaps it was at Sharpe and Dohme that Olive Cole developed the interest and the motivation to become a pharmacist. At least while still working for that firm, she enrolled in the School of Pharmacy of the University of Maryland. Although the first woman had graduated from the School of Pharmacy in 1898, it was still an unusual undertaking for a woman when Olive Cole entered upon her studies. She received the Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 1913 and was the recipient of the Gold Medal, an honor bestowed for the year's highest average. In the same year she became a registered pharmacist in the State of Maryland, and in Washington, D.C. in 1916. She became a life-long active member of the American Pharmaceutical Association in 1915. From 1916 to 1920, Dr. Cole was a pharmacist for Solway-Annan Company, manufacturing pharmacists in Washington, D.C. During this period, she also worked part-time for the Federal Government in the War Risk Department.

Then, in 1920, during the period of reorganization which saw the professional schools of the University of Maryland merged with the State Agriculture College in College Park, Dr. Cole began her long association as a faculty

member of the School of Pharmacy of the University of Maryland. From 1920 to 1928, she was Associate Professor of Botany and Materia Medica in the School of Pharmacy. In 1920, she also became Secretary of the Faculty of the School of Pharmacy, a position she held until her retirement in 1953. In 1947, the *Baltimore Sun* observed:

If there's anything you want to know about the School of Pharmacy of the University of Maryland, Miss B. Olive Cole can tell you . . . she has been secretary of the faculty for 27 years, secretary of the Alumni Association for 21 years, and associate professor of the economics and pharmaceutical law for 19 years. Moreover, she is a graduate of the college . . . [she] likes to cook and sew . . . [but] her main interest . . . is not her home . . . it's the School of Pharmacy. She has made it that way. The school is not a classroom and office, not a place ruled by a 9-5 time clock; it's a second home, and its people are "family."

In 1920 when she joined the faculty of the School of Pharmacy, the School of Law of the University of Maryland decided to admit women. Olive Cole, seeing that as both a challenge and an opportunity, enrolled. In 1923, she received her Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Maryland School of Law. Because degrees were awarded alphabetically, Olive Cole, one of five women in the class, became the first woman graduate from the Law School of the University. Moreover, with an associate woman student, she had won the Practice Court Case of 1923, the first time it was won by women in the School of Law. Subsequently, she became a member of the Baltimore City and the Maryland State Bar Associations, and she was admitted to practice before the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City.

Although Dr. Olive Cole never practiced law, she made the legal aspects of pharmacy her special field. From 1923 to 1928, she was Lecturer in Pharmaceutical Law in the School of Pharmacy. From 1928 to 1932 she was Associate Professor of Business Methods and Pharmaceutical Law. Periodically, she also pursued studies in related fields at the Johns Hopkins University, for example, taking classes in English in 1915-1916, classes in history in 1924-1925, and economic courses from 1932 to 1935. From 1932 to 1947, Dr. Cole was Associate Professor of Economics and Pharmaceutical Law in the School of Pharmacy.

Then, in 1949, she became Professor of Economics and Pharmaceutical Law, the first woman to hold a full professorship at the School of Pharmacy of the University of Maryland and, it is believed, the first woman to hold a full professorship at *any* school of pharmacy in the United States. In 1948 for a year she was Acting Dean of the School of Pharmacy, the first woman to hold that position, too.

Dr. Cole was an active scholar and the author of a number of articles on pharmacy and pharmaceutical history, including the history of the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. She was honored by the Alumni Association of the School of Pharmacy in 1948 when they presented the University of Maryland with a portrait of Dr. Cole. In 1953, the Alumni Association awarded her the Alumni Medal, the first time that honor had been accorded a woman. In that year, Dr. Cole retired and became Profes-

sor Emerita of Pharmacy Administration, the first woman named Emeritus Professor in the University of Maryland. In 1966, the Maryland Pharmaceutical Association paid tribute to Dr. Cole by establishing the B. Olive Cole Pharmacy Museum in the Kelly Memorial Building near the Baltimore campus of the School of Pharmacy. The museum contains antique apothecary equipment, most of it donated from the collection of L. Manuel Hendler, but a number of pieces were also collected by Dr. Cole herself and some of her former students.

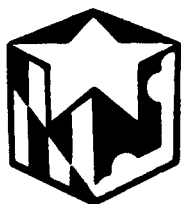
Dr. Olive Cole died on June 5, 1971, and was buried in Mount Carmel Cemetery, Baltimore County, Maryland. By the time of her death, she had become known as the "First Lady of Pharmacy in Maryland." Because she was one of the early women graduates in pharmacy as well as in law, Dr. Cole had always taken a special interest in other women students. But she was not one who actively opposed discrimination against women. After World War II, when preference was given to returning veterans in admission to the University, she admitted that this cut the number for women in the School of Pharmacy. But optimistically she argued that of the 214 students at the School of Pharmacy, twenty-one were women, and she thought that a ten percent average was "not too disproportionate." Besides, she added, "Our women make good." In 1958, she published an article in *Drug Topics*, "Opportunities Open to Women in Pharmacy," encouraging women to enter the profession. She wrote from experience for she had, indeed, "blazed a trail for other women to follow."

Brief Bibliography

The Maryland Room of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Maryland has numerous news clippings covering the career of Dr. Cole. See also *Maryland Pharmacist*, July, 1953, pp. 666-670; "About Our Women in Maryland," *Mercury*, June, 1936, and for a chronology of Dr. Cole's career as well as a complete listing of her writings and awards see the *Maryland Pharmacist*, Vol. 48 No. 6, June, 1972, pp. 26, 28-29.

Edited by WINIFRED G. HELMES, Ph.D.

Notable Maryland Women



**Published in conjunction with the
Maryland Bicentennial Commission**

**TIDEWATER PUBLISHERS/Cambridge, Maryland
1977**